



**Tree & Storm Water Advisory Board**  
**April 9, 2025, 7:00 pm**  
**City Council Chambers, 360 N. Main Street, North Liberty, Iowa**

This meeting may be accessed live by the public in person or on the internet at [northlibertyiowa.org/live](https://northlibertyiowa.org/live), on Facebook at [facebook.com/northliberty](https://facebook.com/northliberty) or on YouTube at [youtube.com/c/northliberty](https://youtube.com/c/northliberty). Meetings are rebroadcast on cable and available on-demand on [northlibertyiowa.org](https://northlibertyiowa.org).

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes
  - a. July 10, 2024
3. Public Comment
4. Tree Reports
  - a. Arbor Day Tree City USA 2024 Awarded (29 years consecutive).
  - b. MidAmerican 2025 *Trees Please Grant* Awarded \$1000 (Penn Meadows Park).
  - c. Liberty Centre Pond Outcropping repair and improvements.
  - d. Iowa DNR rainbow trout release at Liberty Centre Pond (March 21<sup>st</sup>).
  - e. Arbor Day - April 25, 2024 (Last Friday of April annually).
  - f. Other tree topics not listed.
5. Muddy Creek & Trail clean-up April 6<sup>th</sup> report.
6. Storm Water Report
  - a. Award for logo design - Middle Iowa Watershed branding campaign.
  - b. Update on Muddy Creek culvert cleaning (Golf View, Front).  
Possible future project on Rachel.
  - c. Wetland Goose Lake (May or may not burn prairie this year)
7. Old Business
8. New Business
8. Next Meeting
  - a. July 9, 2025, at 7:00pm.
9. Adjournment

## **North Liberty Tree and Storm Water Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** July 10, 2024, 7:00 PM

### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Abdouramane Bila.

### **Board Members Present:**

Darice Baxter, Abdouramane Bila, Michael Burrill, Kevin McGrane, Daniel Green, Guy Goldsmith (Parks Director), Mike Wolfe (Stormwater Coordinator), Brian Hamer (City Arborist).

### **Approval of Previous Minutes:**

The minutes from the April 2024 meeting were approved. Motion by Kevin McGrane, seconded by Darice Baxter. Motion carried.

### **Public Comment:**

No public comments were made.

Guy Goldsmith mentioned that inquiries occasionally arise regarding responsibility for downed trees on private property after storms. He clarified that homeowners are responsible unless it's deemed an emergency situation.

### **New Board Member Welcome:**

Abdouramane Bila welcomed new board member Daniel Green and provided an update on board member terms.

### **Appointment of 2025 Fiscal Year Board Positions:**

- **Chairperson:** Michael Burrill nominated Abdouramane Bila, who accepted the nomination. Motion carried.
- **Vice Chair:** Kevin McGrane was nominated. Motion carried.
- **Secretary:** Michael Burrill was nominated. Motion carried.

### **Updates:**

- **Tree Planting Delay:**  
Guy Goldsmith reported that the MidAmerican 2024 "Trees Please" planting at Penn Meadows Park has been delayed until fall due to wet conditions. The trees need to be planted, and a status report must be submitted by October 25th to remain compliant.
- **Tree and Landscape Maintenance:**  
Brian Hamer discussed summer maintenance activities, including watering trees under four years old, mulching, and trimming dead branches. He mentioned the removal of an Ash tree at Creekside Park due to safety concerns from a resident. No further Ash trees are scheduled for removal, as treatments for the Emerald Ash Borer are proving effective. When asked if the treatments are required annually, Brian confirmed they are. Guy

Goldsmith added that Emerald Ash Borers will continue to move through the area until their food source is depleted.

- **Stormwater Update:**

Mike Wolfe reported on updates to city permits and management plans. He also shared that the Middle Iowa Watershed Authority kickoff meeting would take place on July 11, 2024, to introduce a consultant to the community and develop a plan. Invitations were sent to around 150 citizens.

- **Fishkill at Freedom Park:**

Guy Goldsmith shared that a fishkill occurred at Freedom Park, primarily affecting grass carp, with over 100 carp dying due to lack of oxygen. He explained that fishkills are natural and help manage overpopulation. The pond will be restocked with sterile grass carp to control algae.

### **Other Business:**

- Abdouramane Bila asked Mike Wolfe about the status of the city's GIS stormwater mapping. Mike confirmed it has been completed.
- New board member Dan Green spoke about his background, sharing that he is a lifelong resident of the area, holds a bachelor's degree in geology from the University of Iowa, and works in environmental consulting at Terracon. He has lived in North Liberty for 10 years and joined the board to become more involved in the community.
- Board members Abdouramane Bila, Michael Burrill, Kevin McGrane, and Darice Baxter shared their reasons for serving on the board.

### **Next Meeting Date:**

The next meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2024, at 7:00 PM.

### **Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by Kevin McGrane, seconded by Darice Baxter. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.



# PROCLAMATION

## Arbor Day

**Whereas**, trees can be a solution to combating climate change by reducing the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cutting heating and cooling costs, moderating the temperature, cleaning the air, producing life-giving oxygen, and providing habitat for wildlife; and

**Whereas**, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas and beautify our community; and

**Whereas**, the City of North Liberty has been recognized as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation and desires to continue its tree-planting practices; and

**Whereas**, each year Arbor Day is observed by the people of North Liberty, Iowa, with special attention paid to the care and planting of trees; and

**Whereas**, trees— wherever they are planted — are a source of joy and spiritual renewal;

**Now, therefore, be it resolved:** I, Chris Hoffman, Mayor of the City of North Liberty, Iowa, do hereby proclaim April 25, 2025, to be

### ARBOR DAY

in North Liberty, Iowa, and encourage all North Liberty citizens to participate in tree planting and nurture, protect and wisely use Iowa's natural wonder of trees so that we will ensure a more beautiful city and state, promoting the well-being of this and future generations.

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**Mayor Chris Hoffman**

Dear Tree City USA Award Recipient,

Congratulations, I have received and approved your Tree City USA 2024 application. The Iowa Urban Tree Council would like to invite you and two additional community representatives to receive your Tree City USA award at our 34th annual Community Forestry Award Luncheon. The Luncheon will take place on **Thursday, April 3rd** from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM at the FFA Enrichment Center located at 1055 SW Prairie Trail Pkwy, Ankeny, IA 50023. Coffee and pictures will be prior to the luncheon at 10:00 AM. **Please RSVP online at <https://treesforever.org/event/tree-city-usa-luncheon/>**. Like previous years, you and two guests will be provided free attendance, any additional guests are welcome to join for \$20 each. When registering please use the coupon code: THREE. Details on registration can be found on the registration page.

The Iowa Urban Tree Council will be hosting an educational workshop on preparing communities for grant opportunities to expand tree planting and capacity in their hometowns. The workshop begins at 9:30 AM, please indicate if you are attending when registering on the Trees Forever registration page. The cost of attending is \$20 and can be paid at the door. Details on the workshop, including panel presenters and information on our luncheon keynote speaker can be found on the registration page found here <https://treesforever.org/event/tree-city-usa-luncheon/>

Our theme for 2025 is Making Tree Policy and Code Work for your Community and features Keynote Speaker Gary Johnson. Gary Johnson, Professor Emeritus of urban and community forestry, has been an instructor and researcher at the University of Minnesota, Department of Forest Resources for 33 years. His primary areas of research and publishing included avoiding construction damage to trees, predicting and preventing storm damage to urban trees, and best production and planting practices for nursery-grown trees.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the information below. Please **RSVP by March 25th**. We look forward to meeting you and your community representatives on April 3rd to receive this prestigious award.

Thank you,

**Emma Hanigan** (she/her)

**Urban Forestry Coordinator**

Forestry Section

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City of North Liberty

Congratulations! Your community has been selected to receive a grant for \$1000 through MidAmerican Energy's Trees Please! Program. Your participation will help your community's energy management efforts and promote community collaboration. The check for the grant award will be delivered in the spring. MidAmerican is proud to partner with your community, and we look forward to seeing the results of your tree planting project.

Below are reminders of Trees Please! program requirements:

- Tree planting projects must be completed within MidAmerican's Iowa service territory.
- Grant money must be used for purchase of trees only.
- This program is not a residential customer tree planting program.
- The trees must be planted in common areas, such as publicly owned properties, city-owned rights of way, schools and community spaces
- Matching funds from other sources that equal MidAmerican's grant amount must be secured. This requirement can be met by in-kind services, donated labor and/or materials.
- A project status report must be submitted when your planting project is complete (see attached).

If you have any questions, email [planttrees@midamerican.com](mailto:planttrees@midamerican.com) or call 800-434-4017.

Sincerely,



Stacy Christoffersen  
Energy Efficiency Product Manager  
MidAmerican Energy Company

